



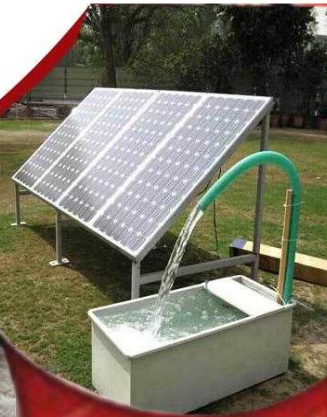
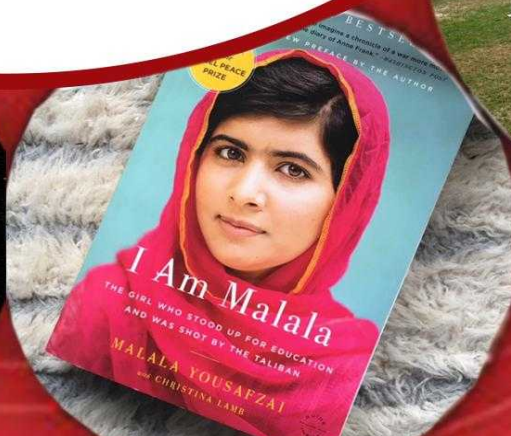
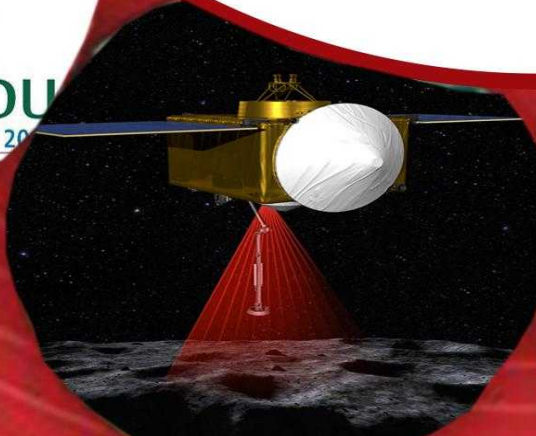
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National News

- **The Election Commission** launched a mobile application that will help poll observers to submit reports timely. Over 1800 IAS, IPS and IRS officials, officials of Central services will be deployed as observers in the upcoming Lok Sabha election 2019 and State Assembly elections.
 - They will get all the important notifications, alerts, and urgent messages through the “**Observer App**”. It will help them get their deployment status, download their ID card and update their profile.
- **Geographical Indication (GI)** tags have been granted to **Coorg Arabica Coffee, Wayanad Robusta Coffee, Chikmagalur Arabica Coffee, Araku Valley Arabica Coffee and Bababudangiris Arabica Coffee**, by the **Geographical Indications Registry**.
 - Coorg Arabica Coffee is grown in Kodagu, Karnataka. Wayanad Robusta Coffee is grown in Wayanad, Kerala while Chikmagalur Arabica Coffee and Bababudangiris Arabica Coffee are grown in Chikmagalur, Karnataka.
- **The two-day national convention of War Decorated India began at the Manekshaw Auditorium in Chandimandir**, the headquarters of the **Western Command in Chandigarh**. Some living gallantry award winners and relatives of the deceased awardees attended the Convention. Chief of Staff Western Command Lt General **P.N. Bali** addressed the convention.
- The **3rd** edition of **Namaste Thailand** festival, organised by the **Royal Thai Embassy** with an aim to strengthen bilateral ties and increase cultural exchange between India and Thailand, began at **Select Citywalk** in **New Delhi** on 15th March 2019 and will conclude on 17th March 2019.

International News

- The **fourth** session of the **UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-4)** took place in **Nairobi, Kenya**, as agreed during UNEA-3 in December 2017. Under the overall theme, ‘**Innovative Solutions for Environmental Challenges and Sustainable**

Consumption and Production,'

- UNEA-4 will address environmental challenges related to poverty and natural resources management, including sustainable food systems, food security and halting biodiversity loss

Awards

- A recent report by brand consultancy **Interbrand**, a division of Omnicom Group, **Tata, Reliance** and **Airtel** are the top three Indian brands of 2019, with **Tata** holding the top position as its brand value grew by 6%, mainly due to Tata Consultancy Services (TCS).
- On March 15, 2019, the former Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh presented the BusinessLine Changemaker Of The Year award to Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, for successfully introducing the Goods and Services Tax (GST).
 - The Union Finance Minister, Mr Jaitley accepted the award from Dr Singh on the behalf of the GST Council at The BusinessLine Changemaker Awards ceremony at the Leela Palace, New Delhi.

Appointments

- **Santosh Jha** (Indian Foreign Service:1993 cadre), presently Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India, Washington, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the **Republic of Uzbekistan**.
 - He will be succeeding Mr. Vinod Kumar.

Sports

- **India will host the U-17 Women's World Cup in 2020**, International Football Federation (**FIFA**) President **Gianni Infantino** announced in the **FIFA Council meeting in Miami, USA**. This will be the second FIFA tournament India will be hosting, after the U-17 Men's World Cup in 2017.

- Besides the U-17 Women's WC, India had also expressed interest in hosting the U-20 Women's World Cup.

Important Days

- **World Sleep Day is observed annually on March 15** to celebrate the benefits of good and healthy sleep. It is an event organised by **the World Sleep Day Committee of the World Sleep Society**. The idea is to draw people's attention to the burden of sleep problems and to promote the prevention and management of sleep disorders.
 - The **theme** of this year's World Sleep Day is '**Healthy Sleep, Healthy Aging**'.



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